



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

Uma Ahluwalia  
Director

**COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**

**Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

7:50 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**CITIZEN MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chris Fogleman (Chair), Michael Gruenberg, Julian Haffner, Barbara Holtz, Christopher Jackson, Mehul Madia (Vice Chair), Julie Malloy, Gladstone Marcus (Co-Chair Government and Community Relations), Roberta Pieczenik, Dana Pisanelli, Wendy Pulliam, and Jasmine Shergill.

**AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Blaine Clarke, Francha Davis, Frank Duncan, Susan Farag, Risa Mainprize, Mary Siegfried, George Simms, Michael Subin, Jenny West-Porter, and Elijah Wheeler (Co-Chair Care, Custody and Placement).

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** Carole Brown, Robert Carter, Linda Currie, Jennifer Gauthier, Perry Paylor, Carlean Ponder (Co-Chair Care, Custody and Placement), Ira Thomas and Lisa Winer.

**STAFF LIAISON PRESENT:** Diane Lininger

**EMERITUS MEMBERS:**

**GUESTS:** Jose Saavedra and Betsy Tolentino.

**Commission on Juvenile Justice**

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facsimile

**I. Announcements /Preliminary business**

- A.** Barbara Holtz reported on her attendance at a meeting for all of the county commissions with the County Executive. CJJ asked a question on vocational services and Isiah Leggett said MOCO has had a focus on college in the past, but is working on addressing the need for increased vocational programs.
- B.** The February 26, 2014 trip to Noyes was cancelled because only Diane, Gladstone, and Linda were able to attend. Another trip will be scheduled.
- C.** April's meeting with the Juvenile Judges will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> - due to spring break. Discussion ensued on the wording of the questions which will be asked to the judges.
- D.** May Retreat will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2014 – Sign up sheet was passed around

**II. Old Business**

- A.** February 2014 minutes – approved
- B.** Letter was sent out regarding educational trailer at Noyes – The Commission received a favorable response from Senator Raskin expressing his willingness to assist in obtaining an educational trailer at Noyes.

**III. Government and Community Relations Committee** – discussion of legislation – bills were forwarded two weeks ago. Christopher Jackson summarized the 4 bills for the Commission. Betsy Tolentino, DJS legislative analyst – gave DJS insight on the bills and how DJS is responding.

- A.** HB0787/SB0861 received an unfavorable vote in both the House and the Senate. The Commission discussed how the bill was somewhat redundant as isolation is rarely used in the juvenile courts.
- B.** The Government Committee was opposed to SB0116 regarding transferring a child from one facility to another. Mary expressed her concern about the bill removing both discretion and the opportunity for an emergency hearing from the court and transferring it to DJS, along with constitutionality concerns. Betsy Tolentino, DJS, shared that there were high numbers of juveniles waiting for weeks for placement and the bill was introduced to address that problem, and that it allows juveniles and/or counsel to challenge the DJS placement. The bill has passed through the Senate but not the House and has support from DJS and the Office of the State's Attorney. George Simms pointed out that sometimes in cases in which juveniles had extended periods awaiting placement, the judges would count that time as time served. The Commission voted on whether to oppose or support the bill, the majority vote abstained.
- C.** There was an unfavorable vote in the Senate for SB0757.

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D. HB1295/SB0515 received an unfavorable vote in the House and was amended today.

IV. **Care, Custody, and Placement Committee** had no new updates outside of the favorable response to the letter regarding educational trailers at Noyes.

V. **The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.**